

# This week on iTunes: new iPods for all!

by BJ Wanlund  
Staff Writer

This week's column is going to be a doozy, folks! Along with ALL the new iPods AND new features in iTunes 8.0 (yes Virginia, they're available now), AND 2 content announcements all TV lovers will rejoice over, PLUS all the new releases, you've got one heck of a column!

As far as new iPods go, all iPods have been updated. Most iPod models have gotten a price drop, while some have gotten a redesign of sorts.

iPod Nano models are the most redesigned/changed. iPod Nanos now look more like the old iPod Minis if you had those. The 7 new colors are (in no particular order): silver, black, Barney purple, teal blue, lime green, school bus yellow, orange, red, and hot pink (for those who like that sort of thing). The prices are 8GB for \$149 and 16GB for \$199 with NO color preference (I think that's a first for Apple).

iPod Touch models aren't as drastically redesigned as the new Nanos are, but there are a few nice "touch"-es if that matters to you (i.e. if you're in the market for a new iPod, like me).

Firstly, there are now volume up/down buttons on the left hand side, just like the iPhone and iPhone 3G. Second, there is no longer a chrome back (yay!), but it is now aluminum (not much better, but at least it's a start). Third is the Genius feature. And finally, it's compatible with the Nike + iPod Sport Kit! Pricing is as follows: 8GB for \$229, 16GB for \$299, and 32GB for \$399.

The iPod Classic also got a refresh, though most everything is exactly the same as the last iPod Classic, save for the models: the only one is 120GB for \$249, which is more than you could get even yesterday.

And lastly in iPod updates, the iPod Shuffle has also been updated, though the update is purely cosmetic. Again, you can get a 1GB Shuffle for \$49 and a 2GB Shuffle for \$69.

The biggest update, however, is in Apple's iTunes software. iTunes is now version 8.0, and it is ABSOLUTELY worth the full-point upgrade!

First, there are two content-related announcements you should know about. NBC Universal is back on iTunes, and —

this is a BIGGIE, folks — you can now buy and view certain TV shows (including some NBC shows) in glorious high definition!

Apparently Apple is working a little mojo for you to view these HD episodes on the go in an iPod-capable format, as well. That's pretty cool.

Second, is the new Genius Playlists feature. The Genius Playlists feature is, well, *genius!* What happens is when you get your iTunes library set up to work with Genius (doesn't take that long), you select a song and it generates—get this— a Genius Playlist based on every song in your library depending on how many songs you set!

Third, there is a new view, and thankfully, it's now on by default! It's called Grid View, and if you have used applications like iPhoto, it'll seem eerily familiar to you! I happen to think it's way better than List View, which I'd been using previously. I don't know how I ever lived without this new view!

And finally, there is a new iTunes visualizer. I can't say "stunning" because the term "trippy," as was used by Kevin

Rose hits it right on the money!

All right! Finally, on to the new releases. In music, the only two new releases I wish to note are the new Dar Williams album *Promised Land* and the release of the long-awaited new Metallica album, *Death Magnetic*.

In TV shows, as I said earlier, NBC is finally back on iTunes! Not only do you get such great NBC shows as *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*, *Heroes*, *30 Rock*, and *The Office*, you also get their fantastic cable shows, like *Battlestar Galactica*, *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*, *Monk*, and *Psych*.

In movies, if you liked Amy Poehler and Tina Fey's *Baby Mama*, that's available now. But the really good ones are available for pre-order: *Iron Man*, *Speed Racer*, *The Love Guru*, *Forgetting Sarah Marshall* (written by and starring Jason Segal, who is working on a new Muppets movie!), and *Leatherheads*, the romantic comedy / sports movie that was shot just over the state line in Greenville, SC!

Okay folks, that ought to do it. Until next time - and hopefully a shorter column - Stay iTuned!

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